

In the Claims

1-10. (cancelled)

11. (new) A threaded ring for threadedly engaging an externally threaded section of a spindle, comprising:

a one-piece body having first and second body components relatively movable between a preinstallation state and an installation state and having a longitudinal axis, each of said body components having an internal thread forming a threaded flank clearance in the preinstallation state, said first body component forming a set collar with a planar surface on one end thereof extending in a radial plane relative to said longitudinal axis, said second body component forming a retaining ring connected to said first body component and having a contact surface extending non-perpendicularly relative to said longitudinal axis and at an angle of inclination from a plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis in the preinstallation state, said threaded flank clearance being eliminated in the installation state;

a gap between said body components;

an elastically flexible wall component of said body connecting said body components;

and

an actuator engaging said contact surface to adjust geometry of said gap by adjustment of said flexible wall along said longitudinal axis and by movement of said body components between said states.

12. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 11 wherein
said contact surface extends perpendicular to said longitudinal axis in the installation
state.

13. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 11 wherein
said actuator comprises plural tensioners permitting modification of widths of said gap at
selected points.

14. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 13 wherein
said contact surface is situated between said tensioners and said second body component.

15. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 13 wherein
a part of said contact surface is assigned to each of said tensioners.

16. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 13 wherein
said second body component comprises recesses receiving said tensioners.

17. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 13 wherein
said tensioners comprise set screws uniformly distributed over a circle coaxial to said
longitudinal axis, said set screws penetrating said gap parallel to said longitudinal axis, and
having screw heads supported on said contact surface in the installation state.

18. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 17 wherein

said set screws are hexagonal head screws countersunk in recesses in said second body component in the installation state and having screw heads oriented at a clamping angle relative an external front face of said second body component, said clamping angle corresponding to said angle of inclination in the preinstallation state.

19. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 11 wherein

said first and second body components have equal outside diameters.

20. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 11 wherein

said angle of inclination is one-half to five degrees.

21. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 20 wherein

said angle of inclination is one to three degrees.

22. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 11 wherein

said actuator comprises a set screw having a threaded shank extending parallel to said longitudinal axis and a screw head with a head surface facing said contact surface extending perpendicular to said longitudinal axis and at said angle of inclination to said contact surface in the preinstallation state.

23. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 22 wherein
said head surface and said contact surface are angularly oriented at an angle less than said
angle of inclination in the installation state.

24. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 11 wherein
said angle of inclination is an acute angle.

25. (new) A threaded ring according to claim 11 wherein
said contact surface is planar.